IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 12-14, without prejudice or disclaimer, as shown below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format, wherein the at least one Internet domain name comprises at least one hostname and at least one top-level domain name;

conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format of Internet domain name in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the conditionally converting comprises converting the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

supplying the data to the database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

examining whether an Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition in the first format.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the examining includes examining whether said Internet domain name includes at least a predetermined number of labels beyond a given origin, said labels having a predetermined maximum length.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined condition upon which the converting is conditional is whether the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, such that the converting is performed for said Internet domain name when the examining indicates that the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, said labels having the predetermined maximum length, and the converting is not performed when the examining indicates that the Internet domain name does not include at least the predetermined number of labels.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined number of labels is three.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving data including another Internet domain name in the second format; and

converting the another Internet domain name received in the second format back to the first format.

9. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

receiving means for receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format, wherein the at least one Internet domain name comprises at least one hostname and at least one top-level domain name;

converting means for conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format of Internet domain name in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the second means is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

supplying means for supplying the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, further comprising:

examining means for examining whether an Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition, the second means being configured to convert the Internet domain name into the second format when the Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a first interface configured to receive data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format, wherein the at least one Internet domain name comprises at least one hostname and at least one top-level domain name;

a converter configured to conditionally convert at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format of Internet domain name in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name form a single label, wherein the modification module is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

a second interface configured to supply the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

12-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

first interface means for receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format, wherein the at least one Internet domain name comprises at least one hostname and at least one top-level domain name;

modification means for conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format of Internet domain name in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name form a single label, wherein the modification means is configured to conditionally convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

second interface means for supplying the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

16.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a processor configured to examine whether an Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition in the first format.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the processor is configured to examine whether said Internet domain name includes at least a predetermined number of labels beyond a given origin, said labels having a predetermined maximum length.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the predetermined condition upon which the converting is conditional is whether the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, such that the conversion is performed for said Internet domain name when the examination indicates that the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, said labels having the predetermined maximum length, and the conversion is not performed when the examination indicates that the Internet domain name does not include at least the predetermined number of labels.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the predetermined number of labels is three.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the receiver is configured to receive data including another Internet domain name in the second format, wherein the converter is configured to convert the another Internet domain name received in the second format back to the first format.